

Statement of Rep. Henry Waxman
Taped Interview for ADAP Advocacy Association
July 30, 2014

Thank you for this recognition and this award.

It's a particular honor to receive recognition from the ADAP Advocacy Association because I know that you are a group that does so much good. You and I both know that your work literally saves lives. And you and I both know that your work makes it possible for people living with HIV to live their lives fully and with confidence that their health can be preserved. The Ryan White program and ADAP have been a lifeline for people who are uninsured and under-insured.

Some people will tell you that now that we have the Affordable Care Act we don't need ADAP anymore. They're wrong. The ACA is a great thing. Millions of people have insurance who didn't have it last year. But we still have millions of people in America with no insurance, especially in the States that are refusing to expand Medicaid. We also have a lot of work to do to get all those people who are eligible for coverage actually enrolled. And finally, I'm sorry to say, some of the ACA insurance plans seem to be making HIV drugs particularly hard to get—in a way that looks a lot like illegal discrimination.

Until we get these problems solved, we will continue to need Ryan White and we will continue to need ADAP.

Fortunately, I know that you will be there—advocating for reauthorization and ongoing funding.

And I will be ready and willing to help you do that.

Thank you.